We Claim:

1. A portable convertible blast effects shield comprising:

a set of at least two telescoping cylindrical rings having a high-strength material construction capable of substantially inhibiting blast effects from passing therethrough, said set of rings operably connected to each other to convert between a telescopically-collapsed configuration for storage and transport, and a telescopically-extended upright configuration forming an expanded inner volume for walling therein a suspected explosive object to shield against lateral blast effects potentially generated from within the expanded inner volume; and

means for releasably securing said set of rings in the telescopically-extended upright configuration.

2. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 1,

wherein said rings are constructed from a low-density, high-strength, composite fiber and matrix material.

3. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 2,

wherein said composite fiber and matrix material includes filament-wound fiber.

4. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 1,

wherein said cylindrical rings are each lined with a ceramic material.

5. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one handle(s) operably associated with one of an inner ring and an outer ring ("handle-associated ring") for actuating the handle-associated ring between a base position when in the telescopically-collapsed configuration and an elevated position when in the telescopically-extended upright configuration.

6. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 5,

wherein a plurality of handles are operably associated with the handle-associated ring.

7. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 5, further comprising:

at least one foot-hold(s) operably associated with the other one of the inner and outer rings ("foot-hold-associated ring") for maintaining the position of the foot-hold-associated ring when the handle-associated ring is raised to the elevated position.

8. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 1, further comprising:

means for wheeling the portable convertible blast effects shield.

9. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 8,

wherein said means for wheeling includes a pair of wheels rotatably connected to an outer ring for dollying said portable convertible blast effects shield in the telescopically-collapsed configuration.

10. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 1,

wherein said means for releasably securing said set of rings in the telescopically-extended upright configuration comprises a plurality of click-lock devices between said rings.

11. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 1, further comprising:

means for releasably securing said set of rings in the telescopically-collapsed configuration to keep said rings together during storage and transport.

12. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 11,

wherein said means for releasably securing said set of rings in the telescopically-collapsed configuration includes a plurality of click-lock devices between said rings.

13. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 1, further comprising:

a second set of at least two telescoping cylindrical rings telescopically surrounding the first set of rings to form an annular gap region therebetween,

said second set of rings operably connected to each other to convert between a telescopically-collapsed configuration for storage and transport, and a telescopically-extended upright configuration for providing supplemental blast effects shielding, with each ring of said second set having a high-strength material construction capable of substantially inhibiting blast effects from passing therethrough; and

means for releasably securing said second set of rings in the telescopically-extended upright configuration.

14. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 13, further comprising:

a bladder concentrically located in the annular gap region between the two sets of cylindrical rings.

15. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 14,

wherein the bladder is adapted to expand in an upward direction when filled with a fluid and to thereby extend said shield to the telescopically-extended upright position.

16. A portable convertible blast effects shielding system comprising:

a first set of at least two telescoping cylindrical rings operably connected to each other to convert between a telescopically-collapsed configuration for storage and transport, and a telescopically-extended upright configuration

forming an expanded inner volume for walling therein a suspected explosive object and providing lateral shielding against blast effects potentially generated from within the expanded inner volume;

a second set of at least two telescoping cylindrical rings telescopically surrounding the first set of rings to form an annular gap region therebetween, said second set of rings operably connected to each other to convert between a telescopically-collapsed configuration for storage and transport, and a telescopically-extended upright configuration for providing supplemental lateral shielding against blast effects potentially generated from within the expanded inner volume;

wherein the rings of said first and second set have a high-strength material construction capable of substantially inhibiting blast effects from passing therethrough; and

means for releasably securing said first and second set of rings in the telescopically-extended upright configuration.

17. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 16, further comprising:

a bladder concentrically located in the annular gap region between the first and second sets of rings.

18. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 17,

wherein the bladder is adapted to expand in an upward direction when filled with a fluid and extend said shield to the telescopically-extended upright position.

19. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 17,

wherein the bladder is adapted to be remotely fillable.

20. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 16,

wherein the two sets of rings are capable of receiving a shrapnel mitigating solid material in the annular gap region therebetween.

21. The portable convertible blast effects shield of claim 16,

wherein the two sets of rings are capable of receiving a blast and shock mitigating material in the annular gap region therebetween.

22. A portable convertible ballistic shield for providing protected user mobility under weapons fire comprising:

a set of at least two telescoping cylindrical rings having a high-strength, low-density composite fiber and matrix material construction capable of substantially inhibiting impinging projectiles, blast effects, and shrapnel from passing therethrough, said set of rings operably connected to each other to

convert between a telescopically-collapsed configuration for storage and transport, and a telescopically-extended upright configuration forming an expanded inner volume capable of accommodating at least one operator therein for shielding the operator from laterally incoming projectiles, blast effects, and shrapnel;

means for releasably securing said set of rings in the telescopically-extended upright configuration; and

means for wheeling said portable ballistic shield while deployed in the telescopically-extended upright configuration, including at least three rolling surfaces extending below the deployed shield.